

BEBC NEWS—FEBRUARY 17, 2023

Beth Eden Baptist Church—Fitchburg, MA

This edition brings you the following news:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| • Summer Ministry Internship | Pg 1 | • Scripture Memory & Meditation | Pg 3-4 |
| • New Sunday AM Preaching Series | Pg 1-2 | • Church Calendar: Current & Future | Pg 4 |
| • New Sunday PM Bible Study Series | Pg 2 | • ICYMI: Recent Ministry Resources | Pg 4-5 |
| • Ladies Spring Bible Study Elective | Pg 2 | • Vacation Bible School 2023 | Pg 5 |
| • Business Meeting Recap | Pg 2-3 | • Summer Camp ... Just Around Corner | Pg 5-6 |
| • More “Signs” of Progress | Pg 3 | • Birthdays & Anniversaries | Pg 6 |
| • Bible Reading Plans | Pg 3 | • How Can We Help You? | Pg 6 |

MISSION STATEMENT: “Beth Eden Baptist Church *exists to glorify God by making, maturing and mobilizing disciples who are becoming more like Jesus Christ.*”



Summer Ministry Internship 2023

We are still pressing forward in seeking out a ministry intern to serve with us this summer here at Beth Eden Baptist Church. The plan is for the internship to run for twelve weeks from mid/late-May through mid-August.

The responsibilities of the intern will include the following: working with children and teens; helping with Pray & Go and other community outreach activities; assisting in scheduled church services (prayer, scripture reading, music, preaching, teaching); assisting with visitation; and using any other special gifts to be a blessing to the church family.

There will be many ways for the church family to serve alongside the intern and to be a source of encouragement to him. We will coordinate a schedule of **member-sponsored evening meals** throughout the summer. You will be blessed, and so will the intern.

*****Important Need***** One of the not-yet-resolved issues we still have is finding appropriate **housing for our intern for the summer**. It need not be anything fancy, just safe and reasonably comfortable. Can you help? Do you know someone who might be able to help? Here are some creative housing ideas that could be workable: basement “apartment” or guest room; grandparent apartment; travel trailer (not being used for the summer); an empty house (we can gather furnishings); and more.

Above all, **PLEASE PRAY** that the Lord will lead us to the right housing option, allow us to find a like-minded young man (single or married) with a passion for ministry, and that we will work together this summer energetically and effectively for the glory of God and the good of the Lord’s work here at BEBC.



New Sunday AM Preaching Series

On this Sunday, February 19, we will begin a new Sunday morning preaching series. “**How to Properly Shepherd Christ’s Church**” will be a

study of **First and Second Timothy**. Those two books, along with Titus, are referred to as The Pastoral Epistles.

But these books are not just for pastors. In fact, the intent was that Pastor Timothy at Ephesus, and all other pastors down to this day, would share these things with the congregation. These letters address many practical topics for believers in the local church. They also speak to the qualifications, responsibilities, and accountability of spiritual leaders in the church.

Let's all commit ourselves to eagerly study God's word and humbly, faithfully follow God's word!



New Sunday PM Bible Study

We recently started a new Sunday evening Bible study series, **“Staying Focused While Rebuilding for the Lord.”** It is a study of the Old Testament books of Ezra and Nehemiah. You can join us this Sunday evening as we study Ezra 4.

The Lord used several different leaders to protect, equip, and guide the children of Israel (the remnant) as they returned to the Promised Land after a long captivity in Babylon. There was much work ahead of them. The two primary characters were **Ezra**, the priest, and **Nehemiah**, the governor.

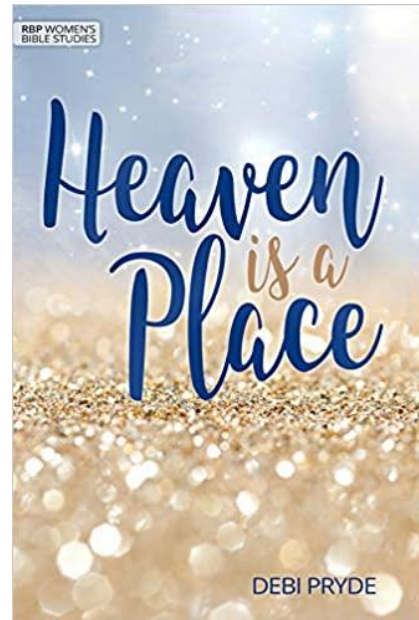
We will see how God worked to help the people overcome obstacles, address their own sin issues, avoid many dangerous traps, and faithfully work to achieve the goals that the Lord had established for them. And while there is plenty of action and intrigue in the narrative, the central focus is on God and the faithful people that He used to accomplish His purposes.



Ladies Spring Bible Study Elective

Beginning March 5, on Sunday mornings at 9:45am, there will be a 12-13 week long Ladies Bible Study elective. The topic will be “Heaven Is a Place.” The elective will be taught by Lynn Wiggins. Due to a tremendous response for this opportunity, the class will meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

Please sign up for the elective on the list in the foyer so that we can order enough books. This Sunday, February 19 is your last chance to add your name to the book order list. The books are being provided only to those who sign up for and attend the ladies Bible study elective.



Business Meeting Recap

We held the 2nd Quarter Business Meeting on February 1st. The meeting had been rescheduled from January 25th due to weather issues. The following agenda items were presented.

Church Clerk Minutes (Oct 1-Jan 31)—The minutes were read by our clerk. It included the Q1 Business Meeting (Oct 26) and two new member admission votes (Dec 11 and Jan 22). The minutes

were approved unanimously. A copy is posted on the bulletin board in the main lobby.

Financial Report Q2 (Oct 1-Dec 31)—The general Treasurer’s Report and the Missions Report were both presented and questions were fielded. The financial reports were approved unanimously. A copy is posted on the bulletin board in the main lobby.

Proposed Budget Amendment—The proposal to create a new budget category, Emergency Health Supplies & Services (EMSS), along with preliminary funding authorization of \$3,000, was presented and questions were fielded. The amendment proposal was approved unanimously. A copy is posted on the bulletin board in the main lobby.

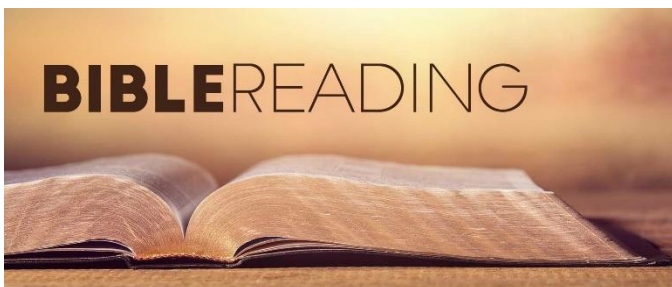
Informational Update re: escrow holdback fund & IRS back payroll tax resolution—Recent significant positive progress was reported. Questions were answered.

Informational Update re: possible summer ministry intern (2023)—The basic goals and guidelines were presented. Questions were answered.



More “Signs” of Progress

Have you noticed some of the new emergency exit signs going up around the building? Not only are they illuminated for ease of recognition, but they are also accompanied by battery-backup emergency LED lights. That will be important in case of a power outage during any of our scheduled services or special weekday meetings. A special thanks to our maintenance team and outside electrical consultant!



Bible Reading Plans

This year, we are placing copies of the various [Bible reading plans](#) on the [church website](#) so you can access them anytime and anywhere you have internet access.

Digital Bible reading resources. See details on the [church website](#).

- **Logos Bible Software** (FaithLife) free app
- **You Version** (adult and children’s app)

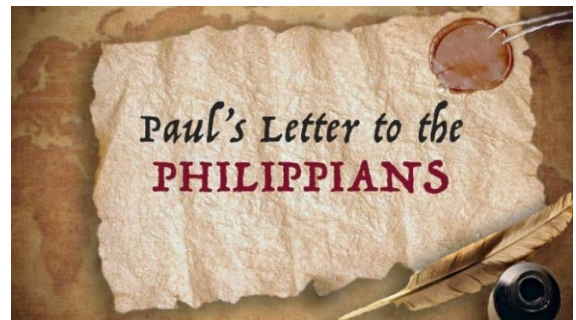
Here is the summary of reading chapters for **February 19-25 (Sun-Sat)**.

Three Sections at a Time:

OT Law, History, Prophets	Leviticus 9-22
OT Poetic Books	Psalm 36-40
New Testament	Mark 8-12

Chronological Order

Leviticus 19-27; Numbers 1-6



Scripture Memory & Meditation

Our scripture memory and meditation effort this year will focus on **Paul’s Letter to the Philippians**. We will review two verses each week and will go over all four chapters during the year. It will be a great way to build off the adult Sunday school series this fall taught by David Galvin.

A copy of the [Scripture Memory & Meditation](#) schedule can be viewed on the [church website](#). Paper copies will be provided at the start of each month as a bulletin insert.

The Letter to the PHILIPPIANS **February 2023—Philippians chapter 1**

January 29-February 4

⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment; ¹⁰ That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

February 5-11

¹¹ Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God. ¹² But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things *which happened* unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

February 12-18

¹³ So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other *places*; ¹⁴ And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

February 19-25

¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: ¹⁶ The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

February 26-March 5

¹⁷ But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. ¹⁸ What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.



This Weekend: A Preview

9:45am Sunday School (Genesis)
10:45am Morning Worship
1 Tim 1:1-2, "A Dynamic Duo for the Gospel"
6:00pm Sunday Evening Service
Ezra 4, "What Does It Take to Stop You?"

Looking Ahead:

March 2 "Tea & Testimonies" Ladies Fellowship
(starts 10:00am)
March 5 Ladies spring Bible study elective begins
April 1 Spring Church Work-Day
April 6 Ladies Meeting
April 9 Easter Sunday
April 26 Q3 Business Meeting
April 30 5th Sunday Fellowship
May 6 Ladies Meeting



ICYMI: Recent Ministry Resources

Here are [BEBC YouTube](#) links to recent service recordings. You will also find the links posted on the [BEBC Facebook page](#). Feel free to share these links with others via social media. And remember to "Like" posts by BEBC as often as you can.

Week of February 5-11:

Morning Service (2/5)—This was the third week of our Ministry Vision Month. Pastor Wiggins preached on "A Great Commitment to the New Commandment." When is something new not really new? When it is the New Commandment. The Lord God had commanded from ancient days to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Lev 19:18). But that commandment is made new and fresh (rather than stale and worn out) by Jesus Christ. He is the embodiment of true love. Each believer is to embrace that love and live like Christ. (1) Truly loving one another is evidence that we belong to the Lord, that His life is present in us [1 John 2:1-8]! (2) Truly loving one another is a reflection of Christ's love operating in and through us so that even the world can see [John 13:34-35]! (3) And truly loving one another is a reminder that we are growing in Christ and being spiritually fruitful [John 14:15, 21, 23]!

Evening Service (2/5)—This was the initial sermon in a new series, "[Staying Focused While Rebuilding for the Lord,](#)" based on the Old Testament book of Ezra. In chapter 1 we saw "[Biblical Prophecy and God's Providence.](#)" The context is the return of Israel (the tribes of Judah) from seventy years of captivity when freed by the Persians who had defeated Babylon. Then in chapter 2 we were reminded of "[God's Plans to Use Willing People.](#)"

Midweek Service (2/8)—We continued our "Prayer in the Early Church" series. Pastor Wiggins taught from [Acts 3-4](#), "[Prayer and Boldness.](#)" Peter boldly proclaimed the gospel to a lame man (3:6-8) and all around him who would listen (3:9-26). God did amazing things! When threatened by the Jewish

authorities, Peter continued to speak boldly (4:19-20). And when he was released from custody and reunited with the brethren, his faithfulness reminded other believers of the importance of praying for and acting as bold witnesses of Christ (4:23-31).

Week of February 12-18:

Morning Service (2/12)—This was the final week of our Ministry Vision Month. Pastor Wiggins preached on [“A Great Commitment to the Great Commission.”](#) In each of the gospels and in the book of Acts, we find Jesus’ words to His disciples about the ministry assignment He is commissioning them for to share the good news (gospel) of Christ. He was leaving His disciples to continue proclaiming to all about the work He had just completed on earth. The Great Commission is stated in Acts 1:8, as well as in Matt28:18-20; Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46-48, and in summary fashion in John 20:30-31. We are to carry out the Great Commission with **confidence**, because we are sent out by Jesus’ authority. Our commission is **empowered** by the Holy Spirit’s work in and through us. Our commission is to be **universal**, carried out throughout the world. Our commission is to be **comprehensive**, embracing all the components assigned to us by our Lord (i.e. going, making disciples, baptizing, and teaching). The faithful exercise of our commission will be **supported** by the presence of our Lord and **rewarded** when we stand before Him.

Evening Service (2/12)—Pastor Wiggins preached from **Ezra 3** on [“Forward Progress: Get Started and Keep Moving!”](#) We looked at (1) the attitudes necessary for progress [3:1-6]; (2) the actions necessary for progress [3:7-9]; and (3) positive responses in the face of progress [3:10-13].

Midweek Service (2/15)—We continued our “Prayer in the Early Church” series. Pastor Wiggins taught from **Acts 6**, [“Prayer as a Priority for the Church’s Advance.”](#) (1) It is important to protect the priority of prayer in the local church [6:1-3, 5]. (2) It is also vital to recognize the power of prayer in the local church [6:4, 6-7].

Vacation Bible School 2023

We are praying and preparing for a summer outreach ministry to children. We recently circulated by email a survey (only four questions) requesting feedback from all interested servants of the Lord.

Another copy of the VBS Survey is attached to the newsletter email this week. Paper copies have also been placed at church at the Information Center.

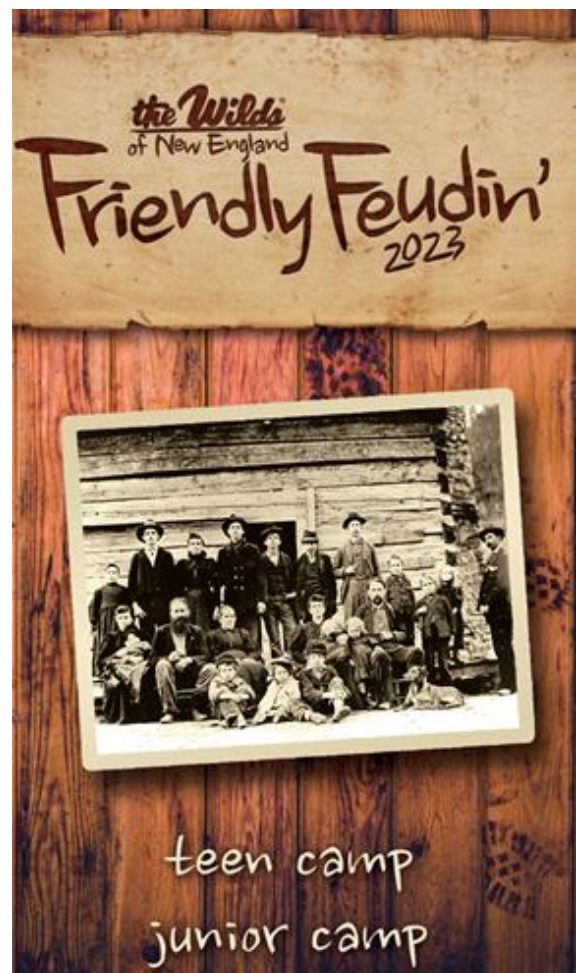
Please complete and return your VBS Survey as soon as possible. Our target dates are in **mid to late July**. We still need to finalize which week it will be and whether it will be in the morning or evening. Your feedback will help make a difference!

Would you be willing to serve and help make an eternal difference in the lives of children from our church and from our community? There will be many different ways to serve (e.g. Bible teaching, counseling, missionary stories, refreshments, activities, crafts, transportation, etc.).

Please pray! Please serve!

Church Summer Camp Is Just Around the Corner!

We are beginning our 2023 effort to register young people for summer camp at The Wilds of New England. The camp theme for 2023 is **“Friendly Feudin’.”** [Complete details](#) can be found on the [TWNE website](#) or at the Information Center at church.



Junior campers must be entering grades 4-7 in the fall. Teen campers must be entering grades 7-12 in the fall, or be a 2023 high school graduate.

For 2023 we are again offering our Camp Scholarship program. This covers the cost of camp, less the required registration payment by parent or guardian. Transportation is also provided on the church van from BEBC to TWNE and back.

A nonrefundable \$50 payment is required to confirm each [camper registration](#). For those who register no later than **March 1st**, the church will also cover the cost of the "Camper Memory Packet."

Our target dates for camp weeks are listed here. **Junior Camp:** July 31-August 5. **Teen Camp:** June 26-July 1. Those are not the only weeks young people can attend camp, but we are trying to coordinate transportation for those weeks, if possible.

If you have any questions, please contact our church secretary, Patty Cordio.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays this month:

Feb 2 Alice Birney
Feb 7 George Canavan
Feb 10 Louise Condon
Feb 10 Katy Diaz
Feb 15 Margaret Villagomez
Feb 16 Dottie Anderson
Feb 20 Tom Bowditch

Anniversaries this month:

Feb 26 Jamie & Cate Rosa

Fellowship Ministry Teams

New Fellowship Ministry Team (FMT) **lists** and a **schedule** have been posted on the bulletin board in the lobby. Thank you in advance for your efforts to help us set up and clean up for our social events.

April 9 Easter Sunday

Team: Morrison-Allaire

April 30 5th Sunday Fellowship Luncheon

Team: Galvin-Cordio



Church Office

350 Ashburnham St, Fitchburg, MA 01420
W: 978.345.4522 E: info@betheden.net
Website: www.betheden.net

Pastor Claude Wiggins

H: 978.386.1366 M: 313.717.3185
E: cwiggins@betheden.net

Church Secretary: Patty Cordio

M: 864.552.0699
E: pattywags83@gmail.com

Deacons:

David Galvin M: 978.906.3495
E: David.galvin.jr@gmail.com

Bob Morrison M: 978.503.1070
E: bobmorrison@gmail.com

Steve Allaire M: 978.870.5546
E: stevemallaire@gmail.com

Brandon Cordio M: 864.320.8344
E: bcordio@gmail.com